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BOOK REVIEWS.

CYCLOPEDIA OF LAW AND PROCEDURE. Edited by William Mack and Howard P Nash. Volume VIII. New York: The American Law Book Company. London: Butterworth & Company, 12 Bell Yard. 1903.

This volume contains the conclusion from Volume VII of Mr. Joseph F. Randolph's valuable discussion of the law of Commercial Paper—of itself an equivalent for the price of the book. Other titles treated are Common Law, Compositions with Creditors, Compounding Felony, Compromise and Settlement, Consolidation and Severance of Actions, Conspiracy and Constitutional Law.

The excellent work of editors and publishers goes steadily forward, and the best tribute that can be paid it is the statement that the broad promises of its prospectus and initial numbers are being faithfully fulfilled. The work is already, *pro tanto*, a law library. A lawyer of moderate means can make no better investment, outside of his own state reports, than in "Cyc," while to him who already possesses an average office-library, the work is most valuable as a labor-saver and life-lengthener.

HANDBOOK OF THE LAW OF WILLS. By George E. Gardner, Professor of Law in the Boston University School of Law. St. Paul, Minn: West Publishing Company. 1903. Price, \$3.75.

This is the latest addition to the Hornbook Series and is worthy of a place among the best of its predecessors. It is doubtless the response to a demand, for the law of this important subject has heretofore been stated in treatises of two and more recently of three volumes, in which principles are almost forgotten among their subdivisions, qualifications and exceptions. An examination of the present handbook shows that it presents in comprehensive and yet succinct form all that the general practitioner need try to grasp and retain about the law of wills. The subject of revocation is treated with especial clearness, as is that also of legacies charged upon land. We do not notice any tendency to quote too largely from the Virginia Reports, but they are cited sufficiently to show that they were not overlooked, *Todd v. McFall*, 96 Va. 754, appearing under the head last mentioned. Here and there the reader is given his choice of two apparently conflicting propositions, as on page 191, where it is said that "the fact that the sole beneficiary wrote the will . . . is not always even a suspicious circumstance, and an instruction to the jury to this effect is wrong," and a few lines below, where we read that "the fact that a party is largely benefited by a will prepared by himself . . . is nothing more than a suspicious circumstance." But these instances are rare, and the fact is that there is abundant authority for both statements. We have no hesitation in recommending the book for what it purports to be—not a compilation of all the case-law of wills, but a valuable summary for ready reference and a useful library companion.